

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06
AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15
/132 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5409
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DACCA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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BONN: PASS DAS CHARLES MEISSNER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD
SUBJECT: UNCTAD TDB MINISTERIAL - DEBT

1. DURING CALL ON AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 1, AMBASSADOR KIBRIA
OF BANGLADESH (CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF ASIAN GROUP OF G-77)
RAISED QUESTION OF FORTHCOMING UNCTAD TDB MINISTERIAL ON
DEBT.

2. HE SAYS THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT THE QUESTION OF COMMERCIAL
DEBT CAN BE PUT ASIDE BECAUSE UNCTAD IS AN INAPPROPRIATE
FORUM FOR IT. HE BELIEVES THAT THE QUESTIONS RELATING TO
"GUIDELINES" HAVE LITTLE OR NO ATTRACTION AT THIS POINT
FOR MOST OF THE 77 EXCEPT EGYPT WHICH IS LOOKING FOR PRINCIPLES
WHICH IT CAN USE TO JUSTIFY ITS UNILATERAL REFUSAL TO
PAY ITS INDEBTEDNESS TO THE USSR. IN KIBRIA'S VIEW, WHAT
REALLY IS HOPED FOR FROM THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IS A
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STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES RELATING TO ODA WHICH WOULD
INDICATE THAT, ON A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BASIS, THE DEVELOPED
WORLD IS EXPECTED TO RELIEVE THE ODA DEBT SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN AND THE ASIAN GROUP HAVE
CONSISTENTLY TRIED TO FOCUS THE FORTHCOMING TDB EXCLUSIVELY
ON THE ODA DEBT SITUATION, BUT HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET

THE G-77 AS A WHOLE TO GO ALONG WITH THIS APPROACH. IT IS
FAIR TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT MOST OF THE LDCS (THAT WANT AN
UNCTAD DEBT MINISTERIAL) CONSIDER THE ODA DEBT ISSUE TO BE
THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE THREE ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED.
SORENSEN

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